

to meeting the security challenges of the 21st century, and every day they remind us that submarines are, and will remain, at the core of our Nation's defense.

From the *Holland*, to the *Nautilus*, and to the newest boats in the fleet, the USS *North Carolina* (SSN-777) and USS *New Hampshire* (SSN-778), the capabilities and technologies on board may have changed dramatically, but one thing has always stayed the same: The strength of any submarine has always come down to those who command and serve aboard her.

In my travels over the past year, I have met countless commanding officers and sailors—many of them young men doing some of the most important work on behalf of our security—who selflessly dedicate their lives in dangerous service.

Our sailors serve in the harshest of conditions around the globe, on long tours away from their families literally stacked on top of their crewmates, often cut off from the rest of the world. They make up the smallest portion of our Navy and their achievements are most often secret. But, there is no doubt that each and every one of them loves what they do on behalf of the security of our Nation.

Every submariner today serves upon the foundation built by those that came before them. At the core of their service over the past century has been a legacy is one of devotion, bravery and innovation. Without a doubt, today's submarine force is living up to that legacy and building one of their own for those who come after them to follow.

This is an exciting time for the submarine force. It is a time of great possibility and of new challenges. But, after spending time with sailors in the mess hall of a submarine submerged below the ice to building relationships with officers at the top of the chain of command, I am confident that our submariners will continue the proud legacy built by those who came before them.

I ask all my colleagues to join with me in extending our deep appreciation to those who have, and continue to, silently serve our Nation, their families, and to all our Armed Forces serving today around the globe.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote 200 yesterday, Wednesday, April 16, 2008, as I was attending to other business in the Capitol. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: "Yes" on motion that the Committee rise, H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act.

#### TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today, as millions of Americans prepare to file their Federal

income tax returns by midnight, many will be confounded, confused and, yes, perhaps even cranky because of our unbelievably complicated tax code, and, I don't think there's a person in this body who will blame them.

Our tax code is a maze of complexity that creates confusion and, yes, unfairness. In fact, between 2001 and 2006—when our Republican colleagues controlled the Congress and the White House—they added more than 10,000 pages to the Internal Revenue Code and regulations.

It now takes people an average of 34 hours to complete a 1040 long form. It's no wonder that 62 percent of Americans rely on a tax professional to prepare their returns.

The Democratic majority has been focused for years on making our Tax Code fairer and simpler—and doing so in a fiscally responsible way, but this issue also demands Presidential leadership. We know that from experience.

The last real tax reform occurred 22 years ago when President Reagan and Dan Rostenkowski, then Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, came together to streamline our Tax Code.

When a new President takes office in January 2009, I believe that this should be an issue near the top of the agenda—particularly an effort to reform the dreaded alternative minimum tax.

Today, we will consider the "Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act," which makes small, but important reforms to our Tax Code.

Among other things, this bill will:

Strengthen taxpayer protections from identity theft and tax fraud;

Expand assistance for low-income taxpayers;

Close tax loopholes that allow Government contractors to set up sham companies in foreign jurisdictions to avoid paying Social Security and Medicare taxes; and

End the private collection of Federal income taxes.

Just this morning, the Washington Post reported that the Internal Revenue Service expects to lose more than \$37 million by using private debt collectors to pursue tax scofflaws.

That's right—private companies hired to collect tax revenue that the IRS does not have the resources to pursue actually cost the Federal Government—i.e., taxpayers—more than they bring in.

Furthermore, let me say that there clearly is something wrong with our Tax Code when the costs of noncompliance—the so-called "tax gap"—is an estimated \$345 billion a year. The reality is, this tax gap is only going to be narrowed and closed when we get serious about real tax reform.

Until that day, Mr. Speaker, we must do what we can to make our tax laws fairer and simpler. This legislation is an important step in that regard.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for this bill, and, in the months ahead, to come together—like we did in 1986—in support of real tax reform.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF NORMAN M. WALKER IN CELEBRATION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF POLICE, CITY OF DEFIANCE, OHIO

#### HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mr. Norman Walker. On Friday, April 18, 2008, Norman Walker will retire after thirty years of service on the City of Defiance's Police Department.

Over the last three decades, Norman Walker has certainly been an indispensable asset to the City of Defiance and to the northwest Ohio law enforcement community. His strong commitment to sound principles and honest leadership has guided his nearly fifteen years of service as Chief of Police. Mr. Walker's commitment to the law enforcement creed of "to serve and protect" was instilled in him as he worked his way through every rank in the Defiance Police Department. Without question, Mr. Walker has given unselfishly of his time and talents in order that the citizens of the City of Defiance might have a safe community in which to work and raise their families.

Norman Walker embodies the spirit of American public service and through his workman-style approach put his vision for a modern rural police department into action to establish the City of Defiance's police department as it model for the region. His dedication to community-oriented policing has empowered not only his fellow officers, but community residents as well, to play an active role in their own safety and have a voice in how their police department can continually provide better service to the residents of Defiance, Ohio.

Madam Speaker, it has often been said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. It is evident that Mr. Walker has devoted himself to the preservation of a free and just society where the rule of law is respected by all who call this great land their home. For that, we owe him a debt of gratitude that mere words cannot sufficiently express.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 110th Congress to join me in honoring Norman Walker. On the occasion of his retirement as the City of Defiance's Chief of Police, we thank him for his dedicated service and we wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

#### SHUMET DEMIE

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shumet Demie who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Shumet Demie is a senior at Pomona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Shumet Demie is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Shumet Demie for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
ELIZABETH LIPPENCOTT FOR  
WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV  
STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPION-  
SHIP**

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Elizabeth Lippencott showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Elizabeth Lippencott was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Elizabeth Lippencott always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Elizabeth Lippencott on winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR  
SECURE ELECTIONS ACT OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 15, 2008*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, while I was unfortunately absent for the vote on H.R. 5036 due to commitments in my home state of California, I would have voted in support of this legislation had I been present. I am deeply dismayed that the bill failed to pass by a wide margin.

As an original cosponsor of H.R. 5036, the Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act, I thank Congressman HOLT for his vigorous efforts to provide emergency support to states and counties that wish to ensure that all votes are accurately counted through the use of paper ballots. This bill would provide assistance to states and counties that voluntarily choose to use paper-based voting systems. States would be able to seek federal reimbursements for emergency paper ballots that are offered in the event of technological failures. The bill would make funding available for the development of procedures to conduct hand-counted audits or to hand-count the results of elections.

Free and fair elections are fundamental aspects of a representative democracy like the United States, and we must provide the necessary support to our state and local governments to strengthen the integrity of our democracy. In the 2004 election, while widespread usage of electronic voting machines helped standardize our nation's voting system and prevented some of the problems that occurred with punch-card ballots in the 2000 election, there were reports of voting irregularities, some of which were due to glitches in electronic voting machine software. This is why it is absolutely necessary to make available paper receipts that each voter can verify for themselves.

To this end, I am also a cosponsor of H.R. 811, the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act. The legislation would require voting systems to produce a voter-verified paper record suitable for a manual audit equivalent or superior to that of a paper ballot box system.

A few years ago, I held a town hall meeting on electronic voting at Santa Clara University to expand my knowledge and public awareness of direct recording electronic (DRE) devices. The program provided much insight into the development of DREs but it also left many unanswered questions about their security and reliability. Since then, I have supported legislation that seeks to ensure a voter verifiable record and greater openness in the testing and certification process of DREs.

Even as secure technology is developed, voter verifiable records will sustain the high integrity of our voting processes. It is imperative that Congress helps support those states and counties that are willing to use paper ballots to strengthen our democracy until electronic systems that produce a paper trail are available, and to ensure that all American votes cast will be counted.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. TIM MAHONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2008*

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, on April 17, 2008, I missed votes because I was attending my daughter Bailey's equestrian event. Bailey is competing today at the 2008 Varsity Equestrian National Championship in Waco, Texas. She is a senior at Oklahoma State University and has been a member of the OSU equestrian team since her freshman year.

**TRACY KRAUSE: PHYSICAL EDU-  
CATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker. I want to congratulate Mr. Tracy Krause being recognized as the National Physical Education Teacher of the Year. The award was presented on April 11, 2008, at the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) Hall of Fame Banquet. The NASPE

is a non-profit professional membership association that sets the standard for practice in physical education and sport.

Mr. Krause is a Physical Education teacher at Mount Tahoma Senior High School. He has taught Physical Education for 15 years. His contributions to physical education were recognized because of his innovative approach to physical education and wellness. Rather than just focusing on activities students can do on the track and in the gym during that particular school day, Mr. Krause exposed students to a lifetime of physical activity such as biking, hiking and climbing with positive results and ever-increasing interest from students and administrators. Mr. Krause takes responsibility for the lifetime fitness of his students, not just the years they are enrolled in his class.

Apart from his work at Tahoma High, Mr. Krause is a National Board Certified Teacher who has presented numerous workshops and conferences and supervises pre-service teachers at regional universities throughout Washington State. The work he is doing to better the fitness level and overall wellness of young people is a wonderful anecdote for relieving pressure on an increasingly expensive health care system.

I again congratulate Mr. Tracy Krause for the recognition he received from the NASPE, encourage him to continue in his important work and thank him for the lives he has already permanently changed for the better.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2008*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I was not present in the House chamber for votes on April 3, 2008.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 159, a motion to recommit H.R. 4847, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act, with instructions to amend the bill (forthwith) to provide liability protection to firemen that provide inspection services or advice on the use of child safety seats to their communities.

I would also have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 160, final passage of H.R. 4847, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act.

**NATIONAL LANDSCAPE  
CONSERVATION SYSTEM ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROB BISHOP**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

The House in Committee of the Whole House of the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2016) to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit for the Record portions of an article from the Tucson Weekly that was published on February 15, 2007.

FOLLOWING THE AMNESTY TRAIL

Leo W. Banks follows one of Arizona's most popular illegal alien crossing routes